

**DRAFT Minutes of Beaver Island Telecommunication Advisory Committee Meeting
Peaine and St James Township, Beaver Island
Meeting by videoconference – March 18, 2021 4:30 pm**

Present

Kevin Boyle, Kathleen McNamara, Theresa McDonough, Wil Cwikiel, Gary Conant, Neal Green

Absent

Vicki Smith

Others

Dick Mulvihill, Chris Sorensen, Britton Picciolini, Christian Picciolini

Motion to approve agenda and minutes by

Great Lakes Energy Update

McNamara and Boyle met with Shaun Lamp, TrueStream executive to further discuss potential collaboration to bring high speed internet to support the pools of service project. Lamp and technician Brady Farber are expected to present the proposal to the GLE noradrenaline of executives for decision making the week of March 22.

Committee discussed encouraging GLE to run fiber so that they might buy into the Pools of Service. The other satellite projects coming forward (Starlink) will have an impact on GLE and how they move forward.

GLE is interested in working with us. They can get a good price on equipment and sell to us.

The new Federal CARES ACT money has a broadband package that has allocated money to Charlevoix County. Will any funds come to Beaver Island?

Dick to speak with Debbie Stabenow's office. Focus is changing on the grants.

Wil briefly discussed past school board meeting where COVID money was discussed. The school will not be receiving any money for connectivity. (The CTE dollars to ISD flows back to the school for technology)

U.P. LINK

The CFO of Northern still wants to participate in our link but there is concern on whether it is economically worth it. Again, they seem committed to get the project done and to manage the link across the lake, however, now pricing needs to be updated.

2021 Goals

1. Pools of Service needs to be up and running
2. Next stage study underway in time to survey seasonal residents
3. Reasonably complete/firm FTH proposal to present in annual report to township boards
4. Further Starlink evaluation based on island user reports (depending on availability)

Next Meeting Date The next BITAC Meeting will be April 15, 2021. We may meet sooner depending on GLE and U.P. developments.